**Claims**

What is claimed is:

5     1.   A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media presentation comprising:

        receiving said streaming media presentation;

        accessing descriptor information;

        determining if descriptors are enabled;

10         rendering said descriptor if descriptors are enabled;

        executing a software routine if an interactive access point is enabled for said descriptor and a corresponding user input is received; and

        discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has occurred.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of rendering said descriptor further comprises rendering said descriptor in a position that provides an association with a streaming media image element.

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising rendering an indication that descriptors are available and enabling said descriptors if a predetermined user response to said indication is received.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein said indication is an icon displayed within a streaming media image.

5.   The method of claim 3 wherein said indication is an audible signal.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of rendering said descriptor further comprises rendering an association indicator.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of rendering said association indicator further comprises changing the location of said association indicator to reflect a change in position of an image element.

8. A method of rendering a descriptor in conjunction with a streaming media image element comprising:

    receiving a streaming media presentation;

    accessing descriptor information;

5    determining if descriptors are enabled;

    receiving pointing device position information;

    selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position information;

    rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position associated

10    with the streaming media image element that does not obscure important streaming media presentation content; and

    discontinuing display of said selected descriptor if an end display condition has occurred.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising executing a software routine if an interactive access point is enabled for said selected descriptor and if a corresponding input is received.

10. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

    receiving a streaming media presentation;

    accessing descriptor information;

5    determining if descriptors are enabled;

    highlighting at least one streaming media image element;

    receiving a user input;

    rendering said descriptor in a predetermined position; and

discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has

10 occurred.

11. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

  receiving a streaming media presentation;

  accessing descriptor information;

5  determining if descriptors are enabled;

  receiving pointing device position information;

  highlighting at least one streaming media image element;

  receiving a user input;

  selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position

10 information;

  rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position; and

  discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has

occurred.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising executing a software routine if an interactive access point is enabled for said selected descriptor and if a corresponding input is received.

13. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

  receiving a streaming media presentation;

  accessing descriptor information;

5  determining if descriptors are enabled;

  receiving pointing device position information;

  altering the appearance of a displayed cursor if said cursor position

corresponds to a streaming media image element for which a descriptor is

available;

10  receiving a user input;

selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position information;

rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position; and

discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has

15        occurred.

14. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

receiving a streaming media presentation;

accessing descriptor information;

5        displaying a streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position within a streaming media image; and

displaying a descriptor associated with said streaming media image element in a second screen position.

15. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media presentation comprising:

receiving said streaming media presentation,

accessing descriptor information,

5        displaying at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position within a streaming media image,

displaying a descriptor associated with said streaming media image element identifier in a predetermined position at least partially overlapping said streaming media image, and

10        updating said descriptor in response to a user input associated with said streaming media image element identifier.

16. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

receiving a streaming media presentation;

accessing descriptor information;

5          displaying at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position providing association with said streaming media image element,

displaying a descriptor associated with the first streaming media image element in a predetermined position at least partially overlapping the streaming media image,

10         dynamically associating the streaming media image element identifier with a second streaming media image element in response to scene changes,

and updating the descriptor to display information associated with the second streaming media image element. .

17. A streaming media receiver comprising:

a unit that receives a streaming media presentation;

computer program code that accesses descriptor information;

computer program code that determines if descriptors are enabled;

5          computer program code that detects a rendering event; and

computer program code that renders a descriptor.

18. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

computer program code that determines if an interactive access point is enabled for said descriptor;

computer program code that determines if an interactive access point

5          event has occurred; and

computer program code that executes a hotlink if said hotspot is enabled and said hotspot event has occurred.

19. The receiver of claim 17 wherein said code that renders a descriptor further comprises:

computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and selects said descriptor from said descriptor information.

20. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

      computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and highlights a streaming media image element.

21. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

      computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and alters the appearance of a cursor if said position corresponds to a predetermined streaming media image element.

22. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

      computer program code that renders an association indicator associating said descriptor and a streaming media image element.

23. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

      computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and highlights a streaming media image element.

24. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

      computer program code that at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position providing association with a streaming media image element..

25. The receiver of claim 24 further comprising:

      computer program code that updates said descriptor in response to a user input.

26. A streaming media receiver comprising:

> means that receive a streaming media presentation;
>
> means that access descriptor information;
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> means that determine if descriptors are enabled;
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> means that detects rendering event; and
>
> means that renders a descriptor.

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